NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

April 26, 1996

Wild IN CHICAGO?

See for yourself: *April 24-28 in Stanley Field Hall*

Celebrate Chicago's diversity during this four-day festival featuring a wide array of activities and performances. Once more the Education Department has cooked up a festival which will both educate and entertain. Not only do Field Museum scientists get to strut their stuff in the normal way -- through displays and visitor interactions in Stanley Field Hall -- this time they take center stage with their own show, "Live, from Field Museum!"

Catch the show at noon each day as talk show host **Paul Baker** interviews Field Museum scientists on stage. On Thursday, April 25, **Tom Lammers** from Botany and **John Slapcinski** from Invertebrates were Paul's guests. Here's the line-up for the weekend:

FRIDAY, APRIL 26: **Gary Merrill** from Botany and **John Wagner** from Insects & Education

SATURDAY, APRIL 27: **Greg Mueller** from Botany and **Phil Parillo** from Insects

SUNDAY, APRIL 28: **Jack Murphy** from Botany and **Peggy McNamara**, artist in residence.

Each will be able to share with the visitor some of the highlights of their local involvement and communicate the role Field Museum plays in preserving and researching the rich heritage of Chicago's biodiversity.

Each day GAIA Theater will also present a play about the Chicago River (11:00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday). Education volunteers will lead activities such as Owl Pellets, Floaters and Boaters from Lake Michigan (video microscope reveals organisms), Chicago Wilderness Online and more.

Don't forget the lecture, "Lessons in Conservation from Prehistory" by Dr. Richard Leakey at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. And on Sunday thirty-four environmental organizations including all members of the Chicago Wilderness Partnership will have booths set up in Stanley Field Hall.

The Education team organizing this event was led by **Phil Hanson**, Head, Visitors Programs.

Also on the festival committee were: **Rosaura Boone**, Education Volunteer Manager; **Joyce Matuszewich**, Head, Visitor Programs; **John Wagner**, Biology Specialist; and **Kristie Webber**, Head, Adult & Family Programs.

CAROL FIALKOWSKI JOINS THE FIELD AS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR IN RESIDENCE

Early this summer, **Carol Fialkowski** will come to the Field Museum to work with the office of Environmental and Conservation Programs and the Department of Education on the development of an environmental curriculum and strategy. Carol will work closely with **Debby Moskovits** in defining programs to capture the potential for regional biodiversity education in Chicago Wilderness. This will be an important part of the Museum's overall effort to stay at the forefront in museum education and outreach. Most recently, Carol was Vice President for Education and Exhibits at the Chicago Academy of Science. In this position, she developed programs that are widely regarded as creative and effective. Please join us in welcoming Carol to the Field!

Laura Gates
Peter Crane
Debby Moskovits

Correction: The Nature Network **Spiders!** event will be June 9, not June 2 as reported in last week's issue.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

FIELD MUSEUM VIDEO WINS AWARD

The Field Museum video, *Understanding Biodiversity: The Field Museum in Venezuela,* which features the work of **Barry Chernoff** (Zoology), **Scott Lanyon** (formerly Zoology) and their Venezuelan colleagues was recently awarded a "Silver Apple" at the National Educational Film Festival. The video previously won a Second Place AAM MUSE Award in 1995.

GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETS AT FIELD MUSEUM

Michael Dillon (Botany) participated in the Geographic Literacy-Chicago Public Schools Initiative by speaking to a Geography Education Workshop held at Field Museum on Saturday, 20 April and attended by fifty Chicago area geography teachers. This program is designed to improve and expand geographic education in the Chicago Public Schools. The project is supported, in part, by the National Geographic Society Education Foundation and includes activities for families, students, and teachers. The title of Dillon's address was "Geography and a Global Perspective" and pointed out how geography has been important in his botanical research projects

FUTURE PARKING

STAFF REMARKS
by
WILLARD L. BOYD
APRIL 23, 1996

The first administrative problem I encountered at the University of Iowa was parking, and so it is appropriate that my last administrative problem at The Field Museum is parking. At no place along the line have I been able to make people happy about parking including myself. Nevertheless, I adhere to the adage that if at first you don't succeed try, try again -- even if you do not succeed.

I appreciate your coming today so that I can describe my best effort at providing future parking for staff, volunteers, and visitors.

Clearly, I have compounded the parking problem by the green streak that runs through me. When I came to the Museum fifteen years ago, the Boards of Trustees of the Field, Shedd, and Adler opposed a 1992 World's Fair to be located in this area. I saw the prospect of the Fair as an opportunity, not a liability, and so lobbied the institutions to favor the Fair.

The legacy of the 1992 Fair was to be the relocation of Lake Shore Drive to the west of The Field Museum in order to create a great south lake shore park comparable to Lincoln Park on the north. Such a park would be available to the people on the south and west sides of Chicago who over time have lost both pedestrian and vehicular access to the lakefront. This park seemed like a great opportunity for Chicago and consistent with the rationale for siting these three environmental museums in a park along the lakefront. Recreating a museum campus and park would reenforce the role of these museums as environmentally-focused institutions. Standing alone these great museum buildings represent the built environment rather than the natural environment.

In addition to this environmental concern, the relocation of the Drive also seemed to me to be the best way of dealing with the problems of public access to this area which have become enormous due to the use of Soldier Field as an NFL Stadium, the building of a huge convention center in the area, and the increased highway traffic flowing through the area from the Stevenson and Ryan freeways. Moreover, relocation made sense because of the City's desire to remove the north parking lot in order to connect Lake Shore Drive to the City by way of Roosevelt Road. At one point there was a plan to do this by a series of elevated ramps which would have been both environmentally and aesthetically abusive.

At any rate, many people including Field Museum administrative and curatorial staff have spent countless hours through the years to design this new park from an environmental as well as a parking point of view.

A big concern for the actively-involved environmental groups, such as Open Lands, Lake Michigan Federation, and Friends of the Park, has been their demand to reduce the amount of surface parking in this new park. These groups want green. They want access to be by public transportation or by underground garages paid for by higher parking fees. My own desire has been to keep as much surface parking as possible so that the parking rate can remain as low as possible since surface lots are less expensive to build and maintain. Nevertheless, we did not oppose the environmental groups push to reduce surface parking because we felt that there will be enough remaining surface parking when there are no events in Soldier Field to serve our visitors, volunteers, and staff.

As you know, all of the parking space is owned by the Chicago Park District. For that reason the north lot is taken over by the Chicago Park District on major events and a charge is made for parking. The Park District has always respected the use by the Museum of the west lot because it is the school bus and disabled entry for the Museum.

The greening of this area will result in the loss of the north lot on January 1, 1997. We have been uniquely fortunate as a metropolitan institution to have such a large amount of free parking available to staff and volunteers. The Chicago Park District was willing to do this until it privatized its parking facilities in order to generate income for maintaining the parks. Now we have to negotiate parking issues with both the Chicago Park District and their lessee, the Standard Parking Corporation. We have argued that there should be free staff parking in the east Soldier Field lot. The response is no. The Park District argues that they do not provide free parking for the staff of other museums in the parks. Nevertheless, we have persisted, and Jim Croft has successfully negotiated an arrangement for a reduced parking fee in the Soldier Field lot commencing on January 1, 1997. The fee will be $40.00 per month, which averages out for people who park 5 days a week to a $2.00 daily charge per staff car as compared to a $5.00 daily charge for visitors. The Park District will set aside the Box Seat parking area for our staff, which is at the south end of the parking lot directly east of Soldier Field. It will be available except at the time of Bears games. The Park District dedicates all parking for the Bears excepting the west lot. Staff with parking passes will be able to come and go from the lot during the day without additional charge.

I am very grateful to Jim Croft for his tenaciousness in arranging a reduced staff charge effective January 1, 1997. Jim has also worked hard to keep the north lot open as long as possible, even though the size of the north lot has to be reduced during construction. Because sixty spaces in the north lot have been eliminated, an increasing number of staff must park in the Soldier Field lot or park on McFetridge. One result of the ongoing years of the parking debate between The Field Museum and the Chicago Park District was the creation of diagonal as opposed to parallel parking on McFetridge. This greatly increased the street parking at rates less than Soldier Field lot prices.

We are trying to secure the Park District's approval to reduce the staff fee for parking in Soldier Field before January 1, 1997.

Lake Shore Drive
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Memorandum to Staff and Volunteers regarding
Lake Shore Drive Relocation / Construction Coordination

Adler Planetarium
Field Museum
Shedd Aquarium

April 1996 / **Memo No. 10**

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

A very serious matter has come to our attention. It appears that some Museums' staff are walking *through* the construction zone, instead of utilizing the prescribed pedestrian route to the Roosevelt Road station and the pedestrian bridge. **It is of utmost importance that this practice stop.**

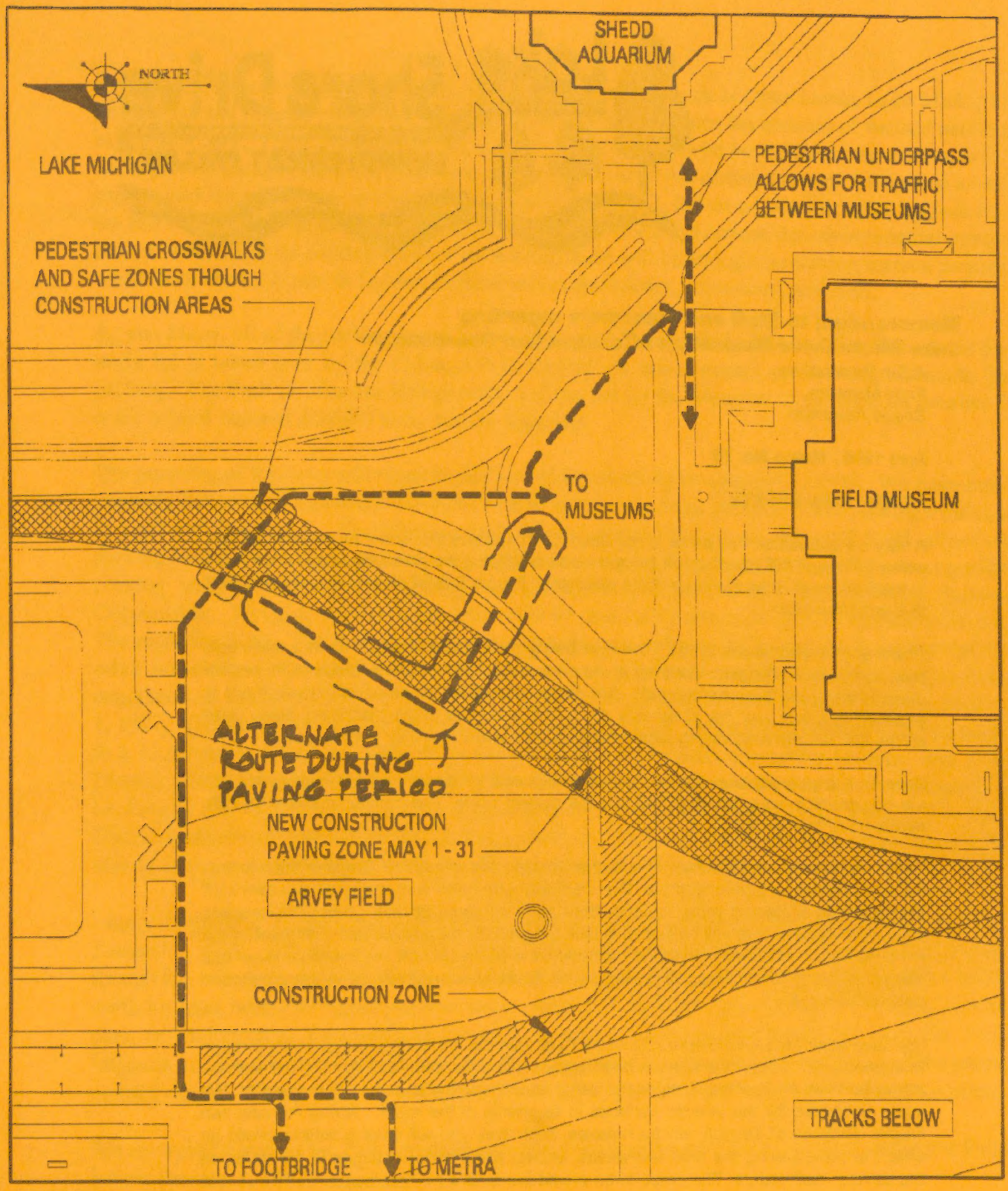
There are several issues at risk - **the first being pedestrian safety**. This is a fast-track, major construction project occurring at our doorsteps. *The only protected area for pedestrians is the prescribed, signed route.* Any person traversing the actual construction site is exposed to a very real risk of serious injury. The operators of the machinery being used on the site are *not* anticipating pedestrians within the site and may not see you.

Second, it is quite possible that *our visitors and guests will unwittingly follow someone into the construction area*, thinking that it is the correct route. The danger of this possibility needs no further explanation.

Third, we have worked *extensively* with the Chicago Department of Transportation to create and maintain a protected route. Our credibility with them is at risk when our own staff disregard the protected route. Indeed, they have informed us that unless this practice stops immediately, they will be forced to lock the gates to the site located northwest of the Field Museum - effectively closing off access to the North Lot. *We are therefore in serious danger of losing the privilege of parking in the North Lot unless we follow the prescribed pedestrian route.*

We have again attached Diagram G which illustrates the current pedestrian route through the construction zone. Signs have been placed along the path leading from the stations to the campus, and additional signs are being added which sign in the other direction. We again apologize for the uneven surfaces in segments of the route - during the next two weeks, sections of the path will be repaved. After that, you will have a better surface on which to walk. During the next few weeks, expect some minor changes in the route, as the paving itself occurs. The areas to be paved are outlined in the diagram.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.



1996 CONSTRUCTION

REROUTED PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

APRIL 1996

G

The issue also arises as to who can park in the west and north lots now and who will be able to park in the west lot on January 1, 1997 after the north lot is totally gone.

Access to the west and north lots has been on a first come, first serve basis for staff. I think we should continue that up until January 1, 1997 when the north lot is completely closed.

The question arises for whom do we reserve space in the west lot now and for whom will we reserve space after January 1, 1997. Currently there is no clear reservation policy. An attempt is made to provide reserved space for volunteers, disabled persons, and Museum vehicles of which there are now two, one Housekeeping and one Geology. There was a third Museum vehicle when I came here which was a car available to the President with a driver. I eliminated that service, and I have driven my own car. I park in the west lot at any time there is space, but I do not have a specifically reserved place.

I have been asked whether similar space is provided for others, e.g., the vice presidents? I did not know the answer to that but I speculated that it would be yes. Upon inquiry I found that the vice presidents did not believe space is reserved for them. The reason they usually park in the west lot is because they are here early. More recently one has taken to exercise and comes later so she is parking at Soldier Field. Another one moved his car from McFetridge to the west lot during a fundraising dinner last week and during a meeting about parking yesterday morning.

My best judgement about how the eighty-five west lot spaces should be reserved after January 1, 1997 is as follows:

1) Staff parking will be moved to the Sky Box lot with a $40.00 monthly pass for an average cost of $2.00 a day. Any staff parking in the west lot will also buy the monthly pass with the same average cost of $2.00 per day.

2) Reservation of free space in the west lot to the extent possible will be primarily for volunteers, including members of the Board of Trustees, Women's Board, Founders' Council, and other support groups attending meetings at the Museum. We support volunteers because they support us.

3) Disabled spots will be increased to ten.

4) Museum vehicles will be accommodated. There are now two and another one is anticipated to be purchased from a grant for a curatorial activity.

5) Two spots will be reserved for two members of the Development staff with automobiles who are willing to help me run a shuttle back and forth to the Loop either for meetings in the Loop or to return donors or other visitors to the Loop. I do not wish to hire a livery service or go back to Museum-owned and operated vehicles. Taxis are not a dependable alternative in our location.

6) We will provide some space for delivery and pick-up including the Harris Extension.

7) Limited space will be provided for contractors and other service vehicles that need to be close to the building.

8) Special Events will be able to reserve up to two spots for customers in order to increase earned income which is essential in the present anti-tax climate.

9) The President will be able to park in order to serve as a Loop shuttle. Once I retire I also want to be able to park in the lot on the days I have to be a part of the shuttle. On other days I will park in the Soldier Field lot.

We are concerned about the safety of going to and from the Soldier Field lot in darkness. Therefore, as west lot spots open in the afternoon, staff who are planning to stay late can relocate to the west lot.

The $40.00 monthly charge that we all pay to park either in the west lot or Soldier Field lot will be paid through the Museum on a monthly basis. The Museum will make available yearly and monthly passes through the cashier. Bi-weekly payroll deduction will be available for passes purchased on an annual basis.

The foregoing is my best judgement on how to proceed with parking. I recognize that parking is vital to the people who drive. And so is public transportation for others. I do not feel that we can subsidize parking without subsidizing bus and train fares for the many staff members who use public transportation. My parking plan is far from perfect. I can only assure you that a lot of perspiration has gone into it, and it has been done in good faith.

4-23-96

in South America. Other Chicago-area participating institutions include the Chicago Children's Museum, the DuSable Museum of African-American History, Quest, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and Friends of the Chicago River.

LAMMERS LEADS FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, April 20, **Tom Lammers** (Botany) led a field trip for the Iowa Native Plant Society at Starr's Cave State Preserve near Burlington, Iowa. When Tom was a master's student at the University of Northern Iowa, he received a contract from the State Preserves Advisory Board to prepare an inventory of the flora of the 140-acre forested preserve. His report was published in 1980 in the *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science,* and was one of Tom's first scientific publications. The officers of the society were familiar with Tom's work there and sought him out at the Museum when they decided to feature the preserve as their first field trip of the year. Approximately twenty-five members from all over eastern Iowa attended the day-long outing.

TRAVELING CRANE

Peter Crane (Academic Affairs) recently visited Washington State University in Pullman, Washington to give a seminar, and also took the opportunity to visit the nearby Clarkia fossil locality. The Clarkia locality has yielded 15 million year old leaves from which DNA can still be extracted. Crane also recently visited the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco and the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, April 23, 1996 was delivered by **Harold Voris,** Curator and Head, Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, Field Museum. Harold discussed the evolution of vertebrates between life zones, emphasizing attributes facilitating terresterialization and subsequent reinvasion of the aquatic environment. All lineages of marine snakes are derived from fully terrestrial groups. Modifications of marine snakes are seen in the presence of dorsal valvular nostrils, reduced size of belly scales, a paddle-like tail, and maximally the production of live progeny. Harold noted the variable distribution of these attributes has evolved independently four times. He hypothesized the availability of food resources as the primary force driving re-entry of snakes into the marine habitat. His discussion of abiotic and biotic sources of sea snake mortality included significant new data implicating decapod crabs as efficient predators. Harold concluded with a video documenting sea snake predation by the white breasted eagle in the waters around Snake Island, Sabah, and mangrove crabs in Thailand.

All the Anthropology Interns in the bleak housing situation have finished their internships and returned home. For those of you who were kind enough to loan 'creature comforts' such as TVs and radios, please call **Mavis** or **Lanet** (X611). For those of you who wish to donate any of those items to an ongoing Internship system, they will remain stored safely in the Anthro Department until the next group of interns is in residence.

Invitations were mailed -- here's a reminder:

THE ANDES: DYNAMICS OF BIOTIC, HUMAN AND GEOLOGIC PATTERNS THROUGH TIME

The 19th Annual Field Museum Spring Systematics Symposium will be held on Saturday, May 11 in James Simpson Theatre. This year's topic is "The Andes: Dynamics of biotic, human and geologic patterns through time." Speakers will include Victor Ramos, Universidad de Buenos Aires; Paul Colinvaux, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute; Lonnie Thompson, Byrd Polar Research Center, Ohio State University; Bruce J. MacFadden, Florida Museum of Natural History; Alan Kolata, The University of Chicago; John Lundberg, The University of Arizona; Michael Binford, Harvard University; John E. Cadle, Harvard University; and The Field Museum's own John Flynn (Geology), Anna Roosevelt (Anthropology), Charles Stanish (Anthropology), Michael O. Dillon (Botany), Shannon Hackett (Birds), John Bates (Birds), and Doug Stotz (Birds).

Pre-registration for Field Museum staff, Research Associates, volunteers, and interns is $10. Registration after May 3, and on-site registration, is $15. Symposium registration includes entrance to all symposium sessions, an abstract volume, refreshments during breaks, and Saturday evening reception.

If you have not yet received a registration form, call **Mark Alvey** (x293).

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES -- *Congratulations!*

APRIL

David Quednau	Exhibits	5 years
Tatzyana Wachter	Environmental & Conservation	5 years

NEW MOVE FOR SECURITY EQUIPMENT OFFICE

The Security Equipment Office, home of **Marcia Pyle** & Company, will be moving on Wednesday, May 1, 1996 to the Public Services staff lounge (aka "war room"). The Public Services Office will be closed Wednesday for the move and will reopen Thursday, May 2. Questions? Call Marcia (x239).

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.